

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 23 and 27 are presently active, Claims 10-22 and 24-26 having been canceled without prejudice, Claim 4 is canceled without prejudice by the present amendment, Claims 1, 6 and 23 are amended, and Claim 27 is newly added. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 4, 7-9 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hinton et al. (US Patent No. 5,450,119) in view of Nakajima (US Patent No. 6,052,211). Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hinton et al. in view of Nakajima and in further view of Koide (US Patent No. 5,251,055). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hinton et al. in view of Nakajima and in further view of Ngoi et al. (US Patent No. 6,307,799). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hinton et al. in view of Nakajima and in further view of Kato (US Patent Application Publication 2002/005/7331 A1). Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hinton et al. in view of Nakajima and in further view of Kato and in further view of Hsu et al. (US Patent No. 6,339,490).

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-9 and 23, Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding grounds for rejection, because in Applicants' view, independent Claims 1 and 23 patentably distinguish over the applied references as discussed below.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "the beams traveling toward the deflector have an open angle  $\theta$  in a deflecting rotation plane," "a photodetector configured to receive the beams deflected at the deflector" and "scanning lenses proximate to the target surfaces, among the at least two scanning lenses, configured to guide the beams to different target surfaces have optical actions different from each other, and are arranged in different layouts."

Firstly, the advisory action of May 16, 2006 asserts that the outside scanning lens of 34C and the scanning lens of 36C have different shapes from each other, and therefore have different optical actions such as different shapes or curvatures. Applicants respectfully disagree with this assertion. Figure 3 of Hinton et al. clearly shows that the scanning lens of 36C and the scanning lens of 34C have a same shape. Further, although the scanning lenses may also have different arrangement formations from each other even if the scanning lenses have the same shape (for example, see Specification, page 15, lines 13-16), Hinton et al. never teaches or suggests that the lenses of 36C and 34C have different optical actions. Additionally, Hinton et al. never teaches or suggests that the lenses of 36C and 34C are arranged in different layouts. Thus, Hinton et al. fails to teach or suggest “scanning lenses proximate to the target surfaces, among the at least two scanning lenses, configured to guide the beams to different target surfaces have optical actions different from each other, and are arranged in different layouts,” as recited in Claim 1.

Next, the Office Action of February 7, 2006 asserts that Hinton et al. discloses in Fig. 3 that beams from light source 34A and 30A have a first open angle and beams from 32A and 36A have a second open angle, and the advisory action of May 16, 2006 asserts “an opening angle may be defined between various of Hinton et al.’s beams to satisfy the limitation.” Applicants respectfully disagree with this assertion. Claim 1 recites “the beams traveling toward the deflector have an open angle  $\theta$  in a deflecting rotation plane” and “a photodetector configured to receive the beams deflected at the deflector.” Namely, the beams, which have an open angle  $\theta$  in a deflecting rotation plane, are received by a photodetector. However, in Hinton et al., beams from light source 34A and 30A are not received by a photodetector. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Hinton et al. does not satisfy the elements “the beams traveling toward the deflector have an open angle  $\theta$  in a deflecting rotation plane” and “a

photodetector configured to receive the beams deflected at the deflector,” as recited in Claim 1.

Further, Nakajima, Ngoi et al. and Kato fail to teach or suggest “the beams traveling toward the deflector have an open angle  $\theta$  in a deflecting rotation plane,” “a photodetector configured to receive the beams deflected at the deflector” and “scanning lenses proximate to the target surfaces, among the at least two scanning lenses, configured to guide the beams to different target surfaces have optical actions different from each other, and are arranged in different layouts,” as recited in Claim 1.

Similarly, Hinton et al., Nakajima, Ngoi et al. and Kato fail to teach or suggest “a photodetector configured to receive the beams deflected at the deflector”, “the beams traveling toward the deflector have an open angle  $\theta$  in a deflecting rotation plane” and “scanning lenses proximate to the photosensitive objects, among the at least two scanning lenses, configured to guide the beams to different photosensitive objects have optical actions different from each other, and are arranged in different layouts” recited in Claim 23.

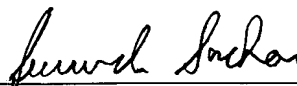
Accordingly, independent Claims 1 and 23 patentably distinguish over the applied references. Therefore, independent Claims 1 and 23 and the pending Claims 2-3, 5-9 dependent from Claim 1 are believed to be allowable.

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Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, it is believed that the outstanding rejection has been overcome, and the application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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